

## Message Text

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16

ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 DPW-01 EB-11 COME-00 AID-20

TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 /147 R

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APPROVED BY S/ S - HGBARNES, JR.

NEA/ PAB: LBLAINGEN

NEA/ INS: DKUX

NEA: AMBASSADOR MEYER

NEA: JJSISCO

P: MR. PECK

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R 242050 Z MAY 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY KABUL

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 100193

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EFIN, PK, BD, IN

SUBJ: PAKISTANI AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON UNDER SECRETARY  
PORTER

1. SUMMARY: PAKISTANI AMBASSADOR SULTAN KHAN CALLED ON  
UNDER SECRETARY PORTER MAY 22 TO ACQUAINT HIM WITH  
POW ISSUE AND TO RAISE DEBT DIVISION BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND  
BANGLADESH. KHAN REVIEWED STATE OF PLAY OF RECENT EFFORTS  
TO RENEW SOUTH ASIAN NEGOTIATIONS AND READ PORTIONS OF  
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LETTERS EXCHANGED BETWEEN SWARAN SINGH AND AZIZ AHMED. SECRETARY PORTER REMARKED HE WAS STRUCK BY GENERALLY CORDIAL TONE OF LETTERS. SUGGESTED GOP MIGHT COME UP WITH GESTURE, SUCH AS ICRC SURVEY OF BIHARI WISHES, TO GET BALL ROLLING. ON ISSUE OF DEBT DIVISION, PORTER SAID OUR APPROACH REMAINS FLEXIBLE BUT WE WILL ALSO EXPECT PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH TO SHOW MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY. END SUMMARY.

2. AMBASSADOR SULTAN KHAN PAID HIS INITIAL CALL ON UNDER SECRETARY PORTER MAY 22. LAINGEN AND HOLMES, NEA/ PAB SAT IN. KHAN SAID HE HAD RECEIVED NEW REPORTS ON PAKISTAN' S ATTEMPTS AT NEGOTIATIONS WITH INDIA AND BANGLADESH AND WOULD LIKE TO ACQUAINT PORTER WITH THEM. REVIEWED PROPOSALS EXCHANGED OVER PAST MONTH AND THEN READ FROM PORTIONS OF MAY 8 LETTER FROM SWARAN SINGH TO AZIZ AHMED. ( TEXT OF LETTER LEFT WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY SISCO AND COPIES BEING POUCHED.) TURNING TO AZIZ AHMED' S REPLY ON MAY 16, SULTAN KHAN SAID HE NOT AUTHORIZED LEAVE COPY BUT SAID MAIN POINTS WERE: GOP AGREES SUBJECTS OF RECENT PROPOSALS ARE BASICALLY HUMANITARIAN; GOP RENEWS INVITATION FOR GOI REPRESENTATIVE TO VISIT ISLAMABAD, NOT ONLY TO DISCUSS POW QUESTION BUT OTHER HUMANITARIAN PROBLEMS AS WELL; BUT GOP UNABLE TO ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE OPERATIVE PORTION OF INDIA/ BANGLADESH DECLARATION AND LEAVE ONLY MODALITIES OPEN FOR DISCUSSION.

3. CONCERNING BIHARIS, KHAN SAID GOP PREPARED TO EXAMINE ISSUE, INCLUDING REPATRIATION OF HARDSHIP CASES, BUT COULD NOT ACCEPT QUOTE WHOLESAL UNQUOTE REPATRIATION. PRACTICAL PROBLEMS OF AN EXCHANGE OF 260,000 BIHARIS WERE SIMPLY MORE THAN PAKISTAN COULD MANAGE. SECRETARY PORTER INQUIRED IF PAKISTAN HAS EVER SUGGESTED USE OF NON- INVOLVED GROUP, SUCH AS ICRC, TO CHECK ON WISHES OF BIHARI COMMUNITY. KHAN SAID HE THOUGHT SUCH A PROCEDURE WOULD BE USELESS SINCE AS LONG AS BIHARIS BADLY TREATED BY BDG RESULTS WOULD BE FOREGONE CONCLUSION. IN ADDITION HE WONDERED IF SUCH A PROPOSAL FROM GOP WOULD NOT AMOUNT TO PRIOR COMMITMENT ACCEPT TRANSFER OF LARGE SECTION BIHARI COMMUNITY. PORTER RESPONDED THAT CENSUS OF BIHARI DESIRES WAS ONLY SUGGESTION BUT THAT IT APPEARED TO HIM

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SOME TYPE OF GESTURE SUCH AS THIS COULD LOOSEN UP THE WHOLE NEGOTIATING PROCESS.

4. PORTER SAID HE WAS STRUCK BY CORDIAL TONE OF LETTERS WHICH SULTAN KHAN HAD READ, PARTICULARLY WHEN COMPARED TO SOME OF DIFFICULT AND ACRIMONIOUS NEGOTIATIONS IN WHICH HE HAD BEEN INVOLVED. WHILE WE WERE NOT IN A

POSITION TO ADVISE, SECRETARY PORTER SAID IT SEEMED THAT  
A DIALOGUE WAS GOING ON WITH PROPOSALS ON THE TABLE.  
WHAT WAS NOW NEEDED WAS SOMETHING TO TRIGGER THE PROCESS,  
A GESTURE TO GET THE BALL ROLLING. HE WONDERED IF  
PAKISTAN COULD NOT RESPOND WITH A DEFINITE COUNTER-  
PROPOSAL, PERHAPS UTILIZING THE BIHARI ISSUE.

5. SULTAN KHAN SAID PAKISTAN WAS NOT GIVING UP AND  
WOULD CONTINUE THE DIALOGUE WITH  
E E E E E E E

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